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## Local Aid

Below is a chart that displays the state dollars approved in the 2005-2006 budget for our towns:

Town	State Owned Pilot	Pequot Fund	Town Aid Road	LoCIP	Public School Transportation	ECS	Total
Ashford	\$6,747	\$40,473	\$127,307	\$53,550	\$78,673	\$3,422,816	\$3,729,565
Tolland	\$72,342	\$71,158	\$149,268	\$117,541	\$264,446	\$8,844,164	\$9,527,052
Willington	\$48,243	\$44,202	\$113,002	\$60,445	\$102,374	\$3,247,247	\$3,615,513



## Story of a Genius

My longtime mission to restore the statue of the "Genius of Connecticut" back onto the State Capitol's dome got a major boost when the General Assembly approved \$300,000 in funding in the state bonding legislation.

The Genius statue was originally placed on the Capitol dome in 1878 and was removed in 1938 due to the damage from a hurricane. The replacement of this statue atop the dome would be the final act to the restoration of the Capitol building that was so well undertaken in the 1980's. We owe it to future generations to do this right and maintain the history of our state. (SA 05-1)

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
MIKE CARDIN  
PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH:



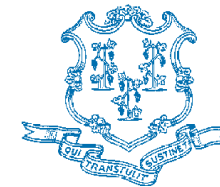
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MIKE  
CARDIN

2005 SESSION



The Connecticut General Assembly

Dear Friends & Neighbors:

The 2005 Legislative Session was a significant advance for Connecticut's people. The legislature set goals by thinking hard about our constituents and communities. We met our goals, and through a balanced vision of state government, our people and our state will benefit from initiatives that expand opportunities, help those who require it, and allow families and individuals to flourish.

In this newsletter, I have highlighted various legislation that the General Assembly passed this year.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice your concerns at the State Capitol. It is an honor to represent you. As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

*Michael*

Michael J. Cardin  
State Representative  
53rd General Assembly District

COMMITTEES:

Chair -- Select Committee on Children

Member -- Appropriations and Education

## Public Safety

### NEW CELL PHONE RESTRICTIONS WHILE DRIVING

The General Assembly finally passed legislation that restricts cell phone use and bans the use of some other electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle. Beginning October 1, drivers must use hands-free technology, with certain conditions and exceptions. Drivers are permitted to turn a cell phone on and off, dial and answer cell phones manually. While responding to an emergency situation, a driver may use either a hand-held or hands-free cell phone.



Other electronic devices that drivers may no longer use include text messaging devices, pagers, personal digital assistants, video game devices, digital video disk players, laptop computers, and digital cameras. Emergency personnel, while performing their official duties, are exempt from the hands-free requirement.

The new law also: completely bans 16 and 17-year-old drivers from using a hand-held or hands-free cell phone while driving; prohibits school bus drivers from using any electronic device, including hands-free cell phones, while operating buses with passengers on board; and adds any type of distracted driving (drinking coffee, putting on makeup, etc.) as a 'secondary' offense. A secondary violation means that drivers can only be cited for that offense if pulled over for another reason. (PA 05-159 & PA 05-220)

## Insurance

### MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE REFORM

This year, Speaker of the House Jim Amann worked closely with the House and Senate chairs of committees with oversight as well as lawmakers with expertise in the three main policy areas affected by medical malpractice insurance reform: judicial and civil, insurance, and public health and patient safety. The product of their work is contained in a comprehensive, bipartisan bill that incorporates an array of solutions to expand access to health care and curtail the rising cost of medical malpractice insurance premiums in Connecticut.

Among the provisions in place under this legislation are revisions to the Offer of Compromise stage, in which plaintiffs and defendants review the Good Faith Certificate, a document that must be signed by a physician practicing in the same area of medicine, certifying that grounds exist for negligence of care. It is also during this stage that both sides shall attempt to settle for a sum certain.

In order to implement safeguards against out-of-control premium increases, medical malpractice insurers seeking to raise premiums by 7.5% or higher would be required to inform their insureds, who are entitled to hold a public hearing prior to approval of the increase from the Department of Insurance. In order to strengthen patient safety practices, each hospital and outpatient surgical facility is required to develop accurate identification procedures to be used prior to surgery. Lastly, the legislation introduces continuing education for doctors, who must show a minimum of 50 contact hours of medical education within the preceding 24-month period. The legislation provides that if, by 2008, reforms included under this package fall short of aims to reduce the frequency and amount of awards and settlements, the Insurance Commissioner shall convene a working group to pursue alternatives to reducing medical malpractice insurance premiums. (PA 05-275)

## Insurance

### INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR INFERTILITY TREATMENT AND PROCEDURES

During discussion of this legislation, members of the public and lawmakers provided compelling, personal testimony about their experiences with infertility. Thanks to legislation approved by the General Assembly this session, women will be ensured coverage of medically necessary infertility diagnosis and treatment. With certain exemptions for the state's health insurance companies, including limits on age and cycles of treatment, as well as religious organizations, proven and effective medical treatment from the state's doctors will be covered for couples seeking coverage for this life-changing treatment. (PA 05-196)

## Health Care

### STEM CELL RESEARCH

Connecticut has become just the third state to endorse and fund human adult and embryonic stem cell research. The landmark bill provides a 'safe haven' for stem cell researchers, establishes a regulatory framework for conducting the research and bans human cloning. Included in the legislation is a ten year, \$100 million funding commitment designed to keep Connecticut's best and brightest scientific minds in state, and to attract new ones from around the nation and world. Proponents believe that embryonic stem cell research holds great promise for finding cures for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, juvenile diabetes and other diseases - as embryonic stem cells have the unique potential to repair all types of damaged tissue in the body. (PA 05-149)

## News Briefs

### COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM



The House of Representatives and Senate worked on differing pieces of legislation to enact some of the strictest ethics restrictions in the nation on how campaigns are financed. The reforms would put in place numerous prohibitions against special interest dollars from PACs, lobbyists and state contractors, and close the ad book loophole. While the two bodies were unable to come to an agreement before the session ended concerning some technical language, we will continue to work on an agreement through the upcoming months to ensure that this critical part of our reform efforts is passed.

### SCHOOL NUTRITION

The General Assembly passed the strongest school nutrition bill in the nation that would help put our school children on the path to healthier lives. SB 1309 requires healthier drinks and snacks to be sold in schools and less junk food and soda. It provides for a daily minimum period of physical activity of twenty minutes for K-5 students in addition to physical education requirements. Unfortunately, Governor Rell gave into the interests of the big soda giants and vetoed this important piece of legislation. I will do everything I can to assist in improving the health of our children by making sure similar legislation is introduced again and that this important issue is not forgotten.



# at your service

Questions ~ Concerns? Call State Representative Mike Cardin at (860) 240-8488 or e-mail [michaeljcardin@comcast.net](mailto:michaeljcardin@comcast.net)